

Application No.: 09/773,944  
Amendment dated: March 14, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of November 12, 2004  
Attorney Docket No.: 1019.US

b.) Remarks

Claims 1 and 3-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended in various particulars as indicated hereinabove.

Claims 1, 3-10 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Flanders *et al.* (6,625,372). In a related rejection, claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Flanders *et al.* in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) (page 2, lines 6-12 of applicant's specification). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Each of the independent claims has been amended to further characterize the movement of the optical axis of the optical component. Specifically, it is described in claim 1 for example, that the optical axis is moved along a path that extends in a circuit around the rest position. This path extends in an x-y plane, which is defined as orthogonal to the optical axis of the optical component. In a similar vein, claim 6 has been amended to describe moving the optical axis of the optical component along a path in the x-y plane. Similar changes has been made to claim 11.

These new claimed features are based on the description relative to Fig. 2, for example. In that figure, movement of the endface in circle 210 is shown. Then, based on the signal measurements during the movement, the general direction of the emission 310 is determined and the search process is advanced so that the endface is scanned in the next circle 212. By moving the optical axis in these loops or circuits 210, 212, the direction of the desired position is determined.

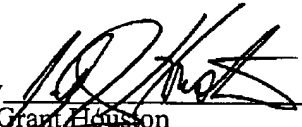
It is not believed that the applied references show similar operation. Fig. 22, for example, is a plot of force as a function of displacement from a passive alignment position. It does not show movement in the x-y plane that is orthogonal to the optical axis of the system.

Thus applicant believes that the claimed invention is not shown by the applied references. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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